

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, November 18, 2005

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**STARK VOTES AGAINST POLITICAL STUNT**

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Pete Stark (D-CA, 13th) today voted against a political stunt posted by Republican leaders in an effort to embarrass a decorated Vietnam War Veteran. His statement follows.

**“Yesterday, Congressman John Murtha, a Democrat with impeccable military credentials and an honored military record, suggested that U.S. troops leave Iraq at the earliest practicable date. Today, I co-sponsored that resolution. His knowledgeable and respected voice joins the loud and clear pleas of the Out of Iraq Caucus - of which I am a proud member. His voice joins former generals, intelligence officers, Presidents, and mothers and fathers across America who know that we are mired in a war that cannot be won and to truly honor our troops, we need to bring them home.**

**“Unfortunately, tonight the Republican leadership refused to bring Mr. Murtha's resolution to a vote. I can only presume because Mr. Murtha's resolution made too much sense. Instead, the Republican leadership is offering a sham-resolution in an attempt to embarrass and insult a member of Congress who has served his country nobly in uniform - something most of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle know nothing about.**

**“Perhaps the Republican Leadership's time would be better spent in an effort to finish the business of this country instead of wasting hours attempting to besmirch the record of a decorated Vietnam War Veteran and demagogue an issue that demands honest consideration.”**

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